WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A key delivery apparatus that manages a decryption key for decrypting an encrypted content and a suppliable number showing how many times the decryption key is suppliable, with respect to a terminal apparatus connected to a network, comprising:

a receiving unit operable to receive, from the terminal apparatus, a supply request for the decryption key;

a supply judging unit operable, if the terminal apparatus is a legitimate supply target, to judge whether the terminal apparatus is one of a first-type terminal apparatus that manages a content-usage period and a second-type terminal apparatus that does not manage the content-usage period; and

a key supply unit operable, if the suppliable number has a remaining number, to supply to the terminal apparatus, the decryption key and a key-usage period of the decryption key when judged that the terminal apparatus is the first-type terminal apparatus and the decryption key when judged that the terminal apparatus is the second-type terminal apparatus, wherein

the supply judging unit judges the terminal apparatus to be the first-type terminal apparatus if the terminal apparatus records the encrypted content, the decryption key,

and the key-usage period onto a portable recording medium.

2. The key delivery apparatus of claim 1, wherein

the network is a home network connected to an external network, contents are received from outside the home network, and the key delivery apparatus judges terminal apparatuses connected to the home network to be legitimate supply targets.

3. The key delivery apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

a key-information storage unit operable to store the key-usage period subsequent to supply of the decryption key and the key-usage period to the first-type terminal apparatus;

a period judging unit operable to judge whether the key-usage period has expired; and

a time management unit operable to add "1" to the suppliable number when judged that the key-usage period has expired.

4. The key delivery apparatus of claim 3, further comprising:

a date-time storage unit operable to store at least one of a first grouping and a second grouping, the first grouping formed from date-time information showing the key-usage

period and a supply date-time of the decryption key, and identification information showing the supply target to be the first-type terminal apparatus, and the second grouping formed from date-time information showing a supply date-time of the decryption key, and identification information showing the supply target to be the second-type terminal apparatus;

a date-time judging unit operable to judge whether a present date-time has reached the supply date-time; and

a date-time supply unit operable, when judged that the present date-time has reached the supply date-time, to supply the decryption key and the key-usage period to the first-type terminal apparatus or the decryption key to the second-type terminal apparatus, based on the identification information.

5. The key delivery apparatus of claim 4, further comprising:

a search requesting unit operable to notify, to the first-type terminal apparatus and the second-type terminal apparatus, search information showing the decryption key; and

a proprietary information receiving unit operable to receive information indicating that the decryption key is being held, from whichever of the first-type terminal apparatus and the second-type terminal apparatus holds the

decryption key.

6. The key delivery apparatus of claim 5, wherein

the key delivery apparatus stores secret information used as a reference in judging whether the terminal apparatus is a legitimate supply target,

the supply judging unit includes an authentication subunit operable to judge whether the terminal apparatus holds the secret information, and

the supply judging unit judges the terminal apparatus to be a legitimate supply target when judged that the terminal apparatus holds the secret information.

7. The key delivery apparatus of claim 6, wherein

the key supply unit includes a remaining number judging subunit operable to judge whether the suppliable number is greater than a predetermined reference number, and

the key supply unit judges the suppliable number to have the remaining number when judged that the suppliable number is greater than the predetermined reference number.

8. The key delivery apparatus of claim 7, wherein

the key supply unit further includes an encryption subunit operable to encrypt the decryption key and the

key-usage period when the decryption key and the key-usage period are to be supplied to the first-type terminal apparatus, and to encrypt the decryption key when the decryption key is to be supplied to the second-type terminal apparatus, and

the key supply unit, when judged that the suppliable number has the remaining number, supplies to the terminal apparatus, the encrypted decryption key and the encrypted key-usage period when judged that the terminal apparatus is the first-type terminal apparatus and the encrypted decryption key when judged that the terminal apparatus is the second-type terminal apparatus.

9. The key delivery apparatus of claim 8, further comprising:

a historical information storage unit operable to store historical information showing a connection date-time of the first-type terminal apparatus;

a connection judging unit operable to judge, using the connection date-time, whether the first-type terminal apparatus was connected within a predetermined connection period; and

a connection management unit operable to add "1" to the suppliable number when judged that the first-type terminal apparatus was not connected within the connection period.

10. The key delivery apparatus of claim 8, further comprising:

a frequency storage unit operable to store a usage frequency of the decryption key by the first-type terminal apparatus;

a frequency judging unit operable to judge whether the usage frequency has reached a predetermined reference frequency; and

a connection management unit operable to add "1" to the suppliable number when judged that the usage frequency has reached the reference frequency.

11. A terminal apparatus that receives, via a network, supply of a decryption key for decrypting an encrypted content from a key delivery apparatus that manages the decryption key, comprising:

a requesting unit operable to request the key delivery apparatus for the decryption key;.

a key reception unit operable to receive the decryption key from the key delivery apparatus, when judged in the key delivery apparatus that supply of the decryption key is possible;

a detecting unit operable to detect an end of content usage conducted using the decryption key; and

an end notifying unit operable, when detected that content usage has ended, to delete the decryption key, and notify to the key delivery apparatus, usage-ended information showing that usage of the decryption key has ended.

12. The terminal apparatus of claim 11, further comprising:

a usage unit operable to decrypt the encrypted content using the decryption key to generate a content, and to use the content, wherein

the detecting unit detects the end of content usage by the usage unit.

13. The terminal apparatus of claim 12, wherein

the key reception unit includes a decryption subunit operable, when the decryption key is to be received, to receive an encrypted decryption key, and to decrypt the encrypted decryption key to generate the decryption key.

14. The terminal apparatus of claim 11, wherein

the key reception unit further receives a key-usage period of the decryption key from the key delivery apparatus,

the terminal apparatus manages a content-usage period, and further comprises a period judging unit operable to judge

whether the key-usage period has expired, and

the detecting unit detects that content usage has ended when judged that the key-usage period has expired.

15. The terminal apparatus of claim 12, wherein

the key reception unit includes a decryption subunit operable, when the decryption key and a key-usage period of the decryption key are to be received, to receive an encrypted decryption key and an encrypted key-usage period, and to decrypt the encrypted decryption key and the encrypted key-usage period to generate the decryption key and the key-usage period.

16. The terminal apparatus of claim 11, further comprising:

a proprietary judging unit operable to receive, from the key delivery apparatus, search information showing the decryption key, and to judge whether the decryption key is held in the terminal apparatus, using the search information; and

a proprietary notifying unit operable, when judged that the decryption key is held in the terminal apparatus, to notify to the key delivery apparatus, information indicating that the decryption key is held in the terminal apparatus.

17. A portable recording medium that receives supply of a decryption key for decrypting an encrypted content from a key delivery apparatus that manages the decryption key, comprising:

a key reception unit operable to receive the decryption key and a key-usage period of the decryption key from the key delivery apparatus, when judged in the key delivery apparatus that supply of the decryption key is possible; and

a key-information storage unit operable to store the decryption key and the key-usage period.

18. The recording medium of claim 17, wherein

the key reception unit includes a decryption subunit operable, when the decryption key and the key-usage period of the decryption key are to be received, to receive an encrypted decryption key and an encrypted key-usage period, and to decrypt the encrypted decryption key and the encrypted key-usage period to generate the decryption key and the key-usage period.

19. The recording medium of claim 17, further comprising:

a period judging unit operable to judge whether the key-usage period has expired; and

a deletion unit operable to delete the decryption key

and the key-usage period when judged that the key-usage period has expired.

20. The recording medium of claim 17, further comprising:

a proprietary judging unit operable to receive, from the key delivery apparatus, search information showing the decryption key, and to judge whether the decryption key is held in the recording medium, using the search information; and

a proprietary notifying unit operable, when judged that the decryption key is held in the recording medium, to notify to the key delivery apparatus, information indicating that the decryption key is held in the recording medium.

21. A key delivery system comprising (i) a key delivery apparatus that manages a decryption key for decrypting an encrypted content and a suppliable number showing how many times the decryption key is suppliable, with respect to a terminal apparatus connected to a network, (ii) a first-type terminal apparatus that manages a content-usage period, and (iii) a second-type terminal apparatus that does not manage the content-usage period, the key management apparatus including:

a receiving unit operable to receive, from the terminal

apparatus, a supply request for the decryption key;

a supply judging unit operable, if the terminal apparatus is a legitimate supply target, to judge whether the terminal apparatus is one of the first-type terminal apparatus and the second-type terminal apparatus; and

a key supply unit operable, if the suppliable number has a remaining number, to supply to the terminal apparatus, the decryption key and a key-usage period of the decryption key when judged that the terminal apparatus is the first-type terminal apparatus and the decryption key when judged that the terminal apparatus is the second-type terminal apparatus, wherein

the supply judging unit judges the terminal apparatus to be the first-type terminal apparatus if the terminal apparatus records the encrypted content, the decryption key, and the key-usage period onto a portable recording medium,

the first-type terminal apparatus receives from the key delivery apparatus and stores the decryption key and the key-usage period, and

the second-type terminal apparatus receives the decryption key from the key delivery apparatus, and uses the decryption key in content usage.

22. A key supply method used in a key delivery apparatus that

manages a decryption key for decrypting an encrypted content and a suppliable number showing how many times the decryption key is suppliable, with respect to a terminal apparatus connected to a network, comprising the steps of:

receiving, from the terminal apparatus, a supply request for the decryption key;

judging, if the terminal apparatus is a legitimate supply target, whether the terminal apparatus is one of a first-type terminal apparatus that manages a content-usage period and a second-type terminal apparatus that does not manage the content-usage period; and

supplying to the terminal apparatus, if the suppliable number has a remaining number, the decryption key and a key-usage period of the decryption key when judged that the terminal apparatus is the first-type terminal apparatus and the decryption key when judged that the terminal apparatus is the second-type terminal apparatus.

23. A key supply computer program used in a key delivery apparatus that manages a decryption key for decrypting an encrypted content and a suppliable number showing how many times the decryption key is suppliable, with respect to a terminal apparatus connected to a network, comprising the steps of:

receiving, from the terminal apparatus, a supply request for the decryption key;

judging, if the terminal apparatus is a legitimate supply target, whether the terminal apparatus is one of a first-type terminal apparatus that manages a content-usage period and a second-type terminal apparatus that does not manage the content-usage period; and

supplying to the terminal apparatus, if the suppliable number has a remaining number, the decryption key and a key-usage period of the decryption key when judged that the terminal apparatus is the first-type terminal apparatus and the decryption key when judged that the terminal apparatus is the second-type terminal apparatus.

24. A computer-readable recording medium storing a key supply computer program used in a key delivery apparatus that manages a decryption key for decrypting an encrypted content and a suppliable number showing how many times the decryption key is suppliable, with respect to a terminal apparatus connected to a network, the computer program comprising the steps of:

receiving, from the terminal apparatus, a supply request for the decryption key;

judging, if the terminal apparatus is a legitimate

supply target, whether the terminal apparatus is one of a first-type terminal apparatus that manages a content-usage period and a second-type terminal apparatus that does not manage the content-usage period; and

supplying to the terminal apparatus, if the suppliable number has a remaining number, the decryption key and a key-usage period of the decryption key when judged that the terminal apparatus is the first-type terminal apparatus and the decryption key when judged that the terminal apparatus is the second-type terminal apparatus.